



A Message from the President

As another year draws to a close I would like to extend thanks on my own behalf and on behalf of every member to the many volunteers who have contributed their skills and time to the Society during the year. It is they who have made this year an eventful one.



This year we introduced EiNews. The Editor, Freddy [EI4GMB](#), welcomes contributions by the 20th of each month.

Tireless efforts by IARU saw the allocation of a new band at 472kHz; work continues to seek further allocations at 5MHz.

The Society also participated in The Youth on The Air (YOTA) in Estonia. The special callsign EI0YOTA has been obtained by IRTS for use with youth activities to help us involve more young people. Please contact IRTS Youth Coordinator Ger [EI4GXB](#) if you wish to activate.

Funding continues to be available to affiliated clubs for activities that demonstrate Amateur Radio to the public through the [EI6IJ Fund](#).

We also have a group of volunteers who act as Regional Representatives, coordinated by Paul [EI2CA](#), that enthusiastically recruit new members.

Through the continued hard work of our volunteers and the contributions of ever-welcome new volunteers, I have no doubt that 2014 will see as many achievements.

Nollaig shona is Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir

Seamus F18BP

And now ...

Some Ideas to try in 2014!

[Contributions by EI2CA, EI5DD, EI5DI, EI7GY, EI7HT]

Contact fellow EIs!

Why not go to a local club meeting and propose some new activities? Call into the SDR net on 7110kHz after the 40m news on Sunday around 1130 UTC. The net, started by EI7BV and EI7HT and EI7GUB a year ago, welcomes all-comers. More information is available in the forthcoming January EiNews.

Listen to a satellite!



The [Amsat-UK FunCube \(AO-73\)](#) has been successfully launched and is now operational. The cube satellite is primarily aimed at schools and members will already be aware that Paul [EI2CA](#) is putting a project group together. The satellite has a telemetry beacon on 145.935MHz. This provides information such as battery temperature, voltage, current, etc. To decode the telemetry you require an SSB VHF receiver (or [Funcube Dongle](#)) and the Funcube Dashboard [Software](#). A satellite tracking program such as [WXTrack](#) will give pass predictions. A vertical antenna will produce good results on many passes. It is easy to hear. The transponder output is between 145.950 – 145.970 MHz USB where stations working through the Cube can be heard. Then why not upgrade to a transmitting with 70cms equipment for the uplink!

Try a Contest!

If you've not tried a contest, they probably seem a bit mysterious – but they're a good way to quickly have more QSOs and log more countries. Many of us get tired of "rubber-stamp" QSOs after a while. With contests you're 59 or 599, and now next please!

It's easy to get started in contests, just get on the air and call any station you hear in the contest – the ones calling "CQ Contest". They will be happy to work you and get the points, even if you don't send in a log. Try the [IRTS 80m Counties Contest](#) on New Year's Day!

Contests are more fun when you use logging software to track your QSOs, points and, when appropriate, multipliers. [SD](#) by EI5DI supports all the usual contests, including IOTA – it's free from <http://www.ei5di.com>.

Useful links for beginners.

[RSGB HF Contesting Guide](#)

[RSGB Islands on the Air \(IOTA\) Contest](#)

[Contest Calendar](#) – a guide to contests and their rules each week.

Try the Great Outdoors!



Summits on the Air (SOTA) is an award scheme designed to encourage portable amateur radio operation on the hills. There are awards for activators (those who ascend the summits) and chasers (who either operate from home, or portable). There are SOTA associations throughout the world who define the recognised SOTA summits within their area. Each summit earns the activators and chasers a score related to the height of the summit. Since one of the aims of the SOTA programme is to encourage outdoor activity, activators cannot simply drive to a summit – the final access to the summit must be non-motorised!

Ireland has been involved in the SOTA programme for over 10 years. A "summit" within EI and GI must be at least 150 metres above sea

level as well as a prominence (i.e., a drop on all sides) of at least 150 metres.

About half of the 387 EI summits and all of the 65 GI summits have been activated by local radio amateurs as well as those from overseas. For anyone making a New Year's Resolution to try some portable operating in 2014, www.sota.org.uk has a lot more information, including details of the EI and GI summits, while www.mountainviews.ie is a good source of information on Irish summits. Enjoy!

Too energetic? – Try WAI!

Worked All Ireland (WAI) is a challenge where a radio amateur has to work/hear stations operating in 10km x 10km National Grid Squares in both EI and GI. Its aim is to encourage activity on the bands. Contacts made on any band are valid although operation through Repeaters does not count. This award encourages activity from both home and mobile operators. To date, Declan, EI9HQ, holds the record of activating over 1300 squares. Further information is available on the IRTS [WAI](#) page.

Too challenging? – Try WEIC!

If you are a newcomer or a not-so-newcomer why not try the Worked All EI Counties Award? The award, issued by the IRTS, is available to licensed amateurs worldwide who have worked stations located in different counties of Ireland (EI/EJ). It is available to SWLs on a "heard" basis. See the IRTS [WEIC](#) page.

RBN - Reverse Beacon Network!

Want to know where your CW signals are being picked up, and how strong they are? It's easy, just call CQ and the RBN will tell you. The RBN is a worldwide network of receivers that identify the callsigns of all callers in the CW bands, and post them to reversebeacon.net. Have a look there to see who is on the list now. To see your own callsign, send CQ or TEST, and your call, a few times – slow or fast, it makes no difference. If you don't intend to have a QSO, pick a frequency well away from the start of the CW band – the RBN will hear you even if no one else does. The RBN is just the job for comparing antennas, and for seeing where your signals are reaching. Go on – try it